



The CRCIA MANAGEMENT TEAM

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Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment

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BY DIS

August 21, 1998

Stuart G. Harris

*Confederated Tribes of the
Umatilla Indian Reservation*

Laurence E. Gadbois

*U. S. Environmental
Protection Agency*

Gregory L. de Bruler

Hanford Advisory Board

John Stanfill

Nez Perce Tribe

Steven P. Sautter

State of Oregon

David P. Holland

*Washington State
Department of Ecology*

Wade H. Riggsbee

Thomas W. Woods
Yakama Indian Nation

Ms. Linda Bauer, Assistant Site Manager
U. S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P. O. Box 550, H0-12
Richland, Washington 99352

Subject: CRCIA Team Comments re: Draft Tribal Government and Public
Consultation Plan; Groundwater/Vadose Zone (GW/VZ) Integration Project

Dear Ms. Bauer,

The Management Team for the Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment (CRCIA) has reviewed the Draft Groundwater/Vadose Zone Integration Project Tribal Government and Public Consultation Plan. We are submitting the following comments.

The CRCIA Team has worked for several years to develop the requirements for assessing the potential impacts on the Columbia River from the radioactive and chemical wastes found at Hanford. Earlier this year we met with U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) officials to convince them of the need to incorporate these requirements into the Integration Plan. We were assured this would be done. Our team is still working to ensure that happens.

However, as we reviewed your consultation plan, the CRCIA team was mentioned only in passing. Because of its obvious impact on the overall plan, it is extremely important that we are identified as a major stakeholder in the consultation plan.

It is also essential that the Consultation Plan give a definitive answer to how involvement by Tribal Nations, stakeholders and the public has changed or will have the potential to change the Project. An open process can mean just letting outsiders watch and listen as the Project is developed. It can also mean that these outsiders actually influence change in the project. The Consultation Plan should define a methodology which enables meaningful participation in the Project's management.

There has been a lot of discussion regarding the lack of participation in the development of this consultation plan. You should make every effort to actively engage those individuals and groups that have been excluded, no matter what the reason.

Regional meetings should not be held without having a definite product in mind other than just being able to check a box that says you held public meetings.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas W. Woods".

Thomas W. Woods
Chairman

cc: Dru Butler
CRCIA Team Members